

What is claimed is:

1. A leg protection system for protecting a leg of an occupant, comprising:

an airbag having a first portion to be inflated in front of  
5 an ankle or an instep of the leg, and  
an inflator connected to the airbag for inflating the airbag.

2. A leg protection system according to claim 1, wherein said  
airbag further includes a second portion to be inflated upwardly  
10 along the leg after the first portion is inflated.

3. A leg protection system according to claim 1, wherein said  
second portion of the airbag is inflated in front of a knee of  
the leg.

15 4. A leg protection system according to claim 2, wherein said  
first portion is separated from the second portion.

5. A leg protection system according to claim 2, wherein said  
20 first portion is integrated with the second portion.

6. A leg protection system according to claim 5, wherein said  
airbag further includes a duct portion arranged between the first  
portion and the second portion to communicate together.

25 7. A leg protection system according to claim 2, further  
comprising an external duct portion arranged between the inflator  
and the airbag so that the inflator supplies gas to the first  
portion and the second portion.

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8. A vehicle having a leg protection system for protecting a leg of an occupant, comprising:

an instrumental panel,

a dash panel disposed below the instrument panel, and

5 a closing panel extending from a lower end of the instrumental panel for closing a space between the lower end of the instrument panel and the dash panel so that an airbag is disposed between the instrument panel and the leg of the occupant when the airbag is inflated.

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9. A vehicle having a leg protection system according to claim 8, wherein said protection system is disposed on at least one of the instrument panel, the dash panel, and the closing panel.

15 10. A vehicle having a leg protection system for protecting a leg of an occupant, comprising:

an instrumental panel, and

a dash panel extending from a lower end of the instrumental panel so that an airbag is disposed between the instrument panel  
20 and the leg of the occupant when the airbag is inflated.